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26 Feb 1965

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Memo for DDCI

Subj: Establishment of a Satellite Office within the S and T Directorate

1. This memorandum is for your information. It is responsive to our conversation on 12 Feb relative to creating a specific office within the DD/S&T responsible for all our satellite efforts. The memo is designed to be helpful in your conversations with the DCI on this matter.

2. For the past 6 or 8 months the Agency's effort in the satellite program has been carried by a small group of Agency employees who operated under the euphemistic title of the Special Projects Staff, DD/S&T. Necessary personnel ceiling has not been available for this Staff, and its membership has been drawn on a detail basis from various places throughout the Directorate. Additionally, a few new and highly specialized employees have been hired to augment the effort. You will recall that earlier we had been reluctant to formalize a satellite office until such time as the Agency's charter in the satellite field could be clarified.

3. The tempo of our satellite activities has set a lively pace for our relatively small group and we now submit that the Agency, if it is at all to fulfill its responsibilities, must officially establish an organization to carry them out. You are well familiar with the growth of [redacted] and the potential mass of effort awaiting a developmental go-ahead. CORONA, itself, is still very much alive in technical demands and the Agency has a very real task in handling the payload responsibilities of that program. [redacted]

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[redacted] All in all, we have demonstrated the capability to move back into the satellite field and are confident that we possess the wherewithal for contributing significantly to the satellite mission.

4. There are several reasons which prompt us now to officially recognize and legitimize our satellite office. We are desirous particularly in tidying up a rather cumbersome network of satellite-oriented activities which are spread throughout the Directorate. I speak of the many functions for which Col Jack Ledford is held technically responsible to the NRO, yet internally, and in practice, the actual execution is carried out by Maxey's Special Projects Staff, which again, in turn, relies upon OSA for various supporting roles. To this currently non-chartered Hqs element we have appendaged those CIA members of the Satellite Operations Center in the Pentagon, the AP Facility at Palo Alto, and the various security officers in the field.

5. You may recall that last summer in discussing with the PFIAB the role which the Agency could play in the satellite field, the Dir said he was creating a group of people within the Agency to handle our satellite programs and the then small in-house group would grow eventually [redacted] technical people depending on the impact of other programs. We now propose that we organizationally collect ourselves and staff to meet the demand of our satellite efforts.

6. The proposed satellite office will be responsible for all development operation and management of the Agency's satellite efforts. In addition to being the Agency's focal point for satellite activities, it will also provide day-to-day technical direction required for our specific areas of interest in each program, as well as manage the on-orbit operations which are performed under the SOC/AP relationship.

25X1 7. Accepting the postulates which we have set forth above, we are preparing a plan of implementation which will spell out in detail the skotting requirements, funding, and the over-all composition of the proposed of-
25X1 fice. We now anticipate the need for approximately [] above those we h
have already committed from our current Directorate ceiling. Total unit
size will approximate [] including HQs and field units.

8. Additionally, we are preparing a memo for your signature to the NRO advising Dr. McMillan that the Agency has transferred satellite responsibilities from Program B and that they will now be managed by M
Mr Jackson D. Maxey, who is designated as Director, Program E.

9. Before proceeding with the development and presentation of all the necessary personnel, funding and org action papers, we wld appreciate receiving approval in principle for proceeding with the matters discussed.

A. D. Wheelon

Drafter: JNMcmahon
REdone: JFBlake